

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Meet With President On Plans for Peace

100 clergymen and others representing the National Council of Churches and 30 of its constituent Protestant and Orthodox denominations were received at the White House in Washington on September 9th. Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, President of the National Council, assured President Eisenhower of the churches' deep concern for peace and their support of efforts presently being made toward international conciliation.

Mr. Ernest A. Gross, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, now Chairman of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council, told the President of the Nationwide Program for Peace being sponsored by the Council and cooperating denominations and presented to the President materials interpreting this program.

Following this conference at the White House, the church delegation attended a luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel at which Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, spoke of the steps being taken and the measures required to relieve tension, to secure arms reduction with adequate inspection and control, and to alleviate economic distress throughout the world.

For the rest of the afternoon the group conferred with Acting Secretary of State Douglas Dillon and other officials of the Department of State regarding outstanding issues in foreign policy with which the government is dealing.

Those who addressed the group expressed their warm appreciation of the interest and prayers of the churches and gave strong encouragement to organized efforts to bring about study and action by concerned citizens.

WHAT NEXT FOR PEACE?

By Herman F. Reissig

A letter on my desk asks, "What do you suggest we do now to help the NATIONWIDE PROGRAM FOR PEACE?" My reply: "Use every means you can think of to help local churches present special programs of study and action between January and June, 1960."

Friends, let us do something to correct a lamentable situation! Our churches are dedicated to peace and "international understanding." But what pastor or social action chairman can honestly say that his church is giving its members adequate opportunity to know the facts of the world situation and to understand what we American Christians can do to help? An occasional sermon, an occasional talk in one of the church organizations, some use of the Mission Study materials—and that is about all. It isn't enough! It is not enough to give us the

right to offer advice to hard-working people in government. We are not making an effort commensurate with the situation.

In cooperation with the National Council of Churches, your Council for Christian Social Action is doing what it can to stimulate study and action, particularly in this year of interdenominational emphasis, which we call "The Nationwide Program for Peace." A special letter from Co-Presidents Hoskins and Wagner has gone to all denominational leaders. In last summer's Christian Social Action Institutes 224 registrants and 154 visitors received special training in international affairs. CCSA staff members are helping to lead many denominational and interdenominational meetings. A special packet of materials has been prepared for use in

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Leaving the White House following the National Council of Churches conference with President Eisenhower are the following ministers of the United Church of Christ: The Reverend Messrs. Fred Buschmeyer, Ray Phillips, Norris Wilson, Sheldon Mackey, Huber Klemme, Herman Reissig, and Edward Driscoll.

WHAT NEXT FOR PEACE?

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the local church. (See below.) The *United Church Herald* and *CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY* are carrying more articles than usual on the international situation and on the study and action program.

We now turn to our local church leaders and ask, "Will you cooperate? Not just with the CCSA but with Christians throughout the land in preparing themselves to play a responsible part in bringing peace and justice to our world?" Let me make a few simple suggestions.

1. If you do not have them, order today the Council for Christian Social Action *Peace Program Packet* containing the following materials:

Christian Responsibility On A Changing Planet. Report of the Cleveland World Order Study Conference. 35c each; 75 or more copies 30c each.

Study Guide for the above. Excellent for use in all kinds of local church groups. 25c each; 75 or more copies 22c each.

The High Price Of Peace In Our Time. An analysis of the world situation with a program for action. *SOCIAL ACTION*, May, 1959. 25c.

The Nationwide Program For Peace. A pamphlet describing what is being done in this year of special emphasis and what Christians can do. 10c.

List Of Resources. Organizations and periodicals important to peace workers.

Call To Christian Action In Society. *SOCIAL ACTION*, Sept., 1959. 25c.

These are our basic documents. Individual items can be ordered separately from one of the Council for Christian Social Action offices or from the Department of International Affairs, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

October 4—World-wide Communion Sunday.

October 18—World Order Sunday.

October 20-22—United Nations — World Order Seminar, New York.

November 6—World Community Day.

January 17-23—Church and Economic Life Week.

January 30-31—Council for Christian Social Action, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.

February—United Church of Christ Month of Emphasis on Christian Social Action.

February 14—Race Relations Sunday.

February 23-26—Churchmen's Washington Seminar.

YOU BELIEVE IN THE UN?



You can help build public support for the United Nations through a simple method of making known your own support of the organization. The United States Committee for the United Nations (816 21st St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.) has prepared posters, stickers, banners, each carrying the official U.N. emblem, with the letters "UN" at the top and the words "We Believe" at the bottom.

Seals—100 for \$1.00; 500 for \$4.00; 1000 for \$7.00.

Stickers—for car window. 25 for \$1.00.

Posters—small, medium and large. 10 for \$1.00; 50 for \$3.00.

Posters—set, in five official languages of the UN. \$1.00.

Wooden plaques—for office or reception room. Grey \$1.20; walnut \$1.70.

Banners—for club rooms, displays. White on blue background, 35" x 42", cotton at \$6.00; rayon at \$10.00 each.

Cuts—for imprinting on stationery, publications, advertisements. \$3.00.

Order from the above address, not from CCSA.

Drive, New York 27, New York. (Note the new address of the National Council of Churches.) The *packet* costs one dollar and must be ordered from the Council for Christian Social Action.

2. When you have read these six pieces ask yourself what use you can make of them in your church. To start your thinking, look over the following (taken from page 6 of the pamphlet, *The Nationwide Program for Peace*):

- a) Sermons by the minister on Christian responsibilities in international relations
- b) Church School Class or departmental study programs
- c) Women's Society programs
- d) Men's Fellowship; evening meetings or luncheons
- e) Youth programs
- f) Special church evening programs with outside speakers
- g) School of Missions or Mission Study group programs
- h) Prayer Meeting Series
- i) Church Family Night programs
- j) Church radio and TV programs
- k) Sunday afternoon and/or evening Church Program Series (four Sundays in a row, for example)
- l) Community Forums sponsored by a local church or churches
- m) Sponsorship of overseas student guests for visits in church members' homes
- n) Organization of a tour group from the church or community to visit the United Nations, the new Interchurch Center in New York, the Congress and government officials in Washington, D. C.

o) Organization of a tour group to study overseas mission fields and other aspects of life abroad for better understanding of current world problems.

This article does not suggest specific actions (advice to government, etc.) because careful study should precede action. And in the course of study and discussion various kinds of action will suggest themselves. For example, you may wish to encourage the President of the United States to pursue his proposal that the Western democracies join in a really serious attack on poverty in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. But such support will be more intelligent and forceful after you have given careful attention to what the Cleveland Study Conference had to say about aid to the under-developed areas.

If it isn't presumptuous, one would like to give a warning to preachers. The typical preacher's first impulse, when thinking about matters of great concern, is to preach a sermon. It may be more important in this area to stimulate study and discussion in church organizations and groups! Let us say it takes ten hours to prepare a sermon on international affairs. Ten hours spent in planning a forum, a seminar, a series of study groups might be more effective. In general, we preachers spend too much time talking to people and too little time helping people study and discuss great matters among themselves.

Letters will be welcome telling us what you plan to do in your church or asking for further suggestions.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Many local churches and groups of churches have reported activities which would encourage social action committees and church councils planning their part in the Nationwide Program for Peace.

Last spring, for example, the Council of Churches of the Berea (Ohio) area conducted a series of public forums on "The Church and the World Crisis" at the First Congregational Church. The topics discussed included "The Struggle for the Minds of Men," "Is It Time for An 'Agonizing Reappraisal'?" and "Soviet Foreign Policy: What Hope For Peace?" Prof. Martin Lewis of Baldwin Wallace College is chairman of the committee.

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In Indianapolis, the deacons of the First Congregational Church were very much concerned about the question of human survival and the responsibility of the churches to bring about a more peaceful world. Following a number of sessions in which they studied the problem and gave expression to their thinking, they sent an appeal to the Church Federation of Indianapolis. This says, in part:

We, a group of deacons at the First Congregational Church, feel that the churches of our nation have not presented as fully as they should the moral, social, and spiritual implications of the cold war. We believe that the realm of government is an area of human activity under the judgment of God and that we should strive to imbed moral principles in the formation of policy. We, therefore, set forth these declarations.

We believe it is immoral to poison the atmosphere of all men to perfect weapons of mass destruction.

We believe that the Christian conscience must be sensitized to the problems involved in the possession and threat to use nuclear weapons.

We believe that the destructive power of atomic weapons makes war unthinkable as a means of safeguarding human rights and principles of morality. The most immoral or unreligious thing we can do is to engage in a war that would place in jeopardy human survival.

We do not assume that in our world as it now is the military power of the United States can or should be demobilized. We do, however, reject the increasing militarization of our foreign policy, the uncreative answer of armed force to international crises rooted in complicated social, economic, and spiritual dislocations. We believe that the constant brandishment of threats can only engender fear in the hearts of men.

We believe that Christians everywhere should strive to lessen international tension and work fervently for the strengthening of the United Nations and the World Court as vehicles for the peaceful settlement of international disputes . . .

We believe that the churches should grapple with these issues and do all they can to strengthen the forces working for law and for replacing hate, vindictiveness, and self centeredness with love, compassion, and justice. We believe that no nation can interpret its vital interest apart from love, justice and righteousness, for these lie at the heart of any true conception of vital interest . . .

We, therefore, urge you to urge the pastors in our city to bring this overwhelmingly important issue before their congregations, to encourage them to consider these issues prayerfully in the light of faith, and to communicate their beliefs, hopes and fears to the policy makers in Washington on whose decisions rests survival or death."

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In Hartford, Connecticut last January the social action committee of Immanuel Congregational Church sponsored a panel discussion on "Nuclear Weapons Testing and Our Christian Faith." The Reverend Robert L. Edwards, pastor of Immanuel Church, gave his views on this subject from the Christian standpoint. The results of weapons testing in terms of nuclear fallout material and its harmful effects on present and future generations were discussed by Earle K. Borman, Chief of Laboratory Services, and Arthur T. Heubner, Radiation Health Physicist, both of the Connecticut Department of Health. Prof. Elwood Street, then Chairman of the social action committee, summarized the discussion of the panelists and those who participated in the

question and answer period afterwards. It was pointed out that there is a definite risk in this program, and that there are definitely harmful effects resulting from it in terms of present and future generations. However, these effects are considered to be relatively minor compared to the harmful effects of radioactivity and radiation to which the population is already exposed from various sources. Those in our government who are responsible for the continued testing program believe that the alternative might mean enslavement or annihilation by the Communists.

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At Union Congregational Church, West Palm Beach, Florida, a community conference on World Peace and Christian Understanding was held on April 5th. Pastors of 16 local churches representing 9 denominations sponsored this conference, which made use of outstanding resource leaders from the area. Among the topics on which discussion groups worked were: "How Do We Form Our Opinions?"; "Mutual Aid"; "The United Nations"; "Religious Faith—A Force for Peace." Each group reported some of its major conclusions. Among these were the importance of informing ourselves and being unafraid to express our convictions; the desirability of a strong social action committee in each church; support of mutual aid (economic assistance); and aggressive local efforts to counteract vicious propaganda against the United Nations.

World Order Sunday—United Nations Day

October presents two special opportunities to lift up our common concern for international problems. One of these is World Order Sunday, October 18, set aside by the National Council of Churches, which again has prepared a Message for the occasion. Pastors, who are receiving a copy with this newsletter, would do well to read all or part of it as part of the worship service on this Sunday, or order copies for distribution to the congregation.

The other occasion is Saturday, October 24, set aside as United Nations Day by Presidential Proclamation, "dedicated . . . to making known the purposes, principles, and accomplishments of the United Nations." In his proclamation the President calls upon the citizens of this Nation to observe the day "by means of community programs which will demonstrate their faith in the United Nations and contribute to a better understanding of its aims, problems, and achievements."

FAIR HOUSING PROJECT UNDER WAY

By Chester L. Marcus

For more than two years the Council for Christian Social Action has been seeking ways to implement its policy statement supporting non-discrimination in housing. This matter was one of the first considerations which faced the new Council after the Cleveland meeting of the Uniting General Synod in 1956. The secretaries for racial and cultural relations were asked to investigate ways of getting an effective program launched, and the executives were asked to explore ways and means of financing it. After much staff discussion this matter was presented to the Council, which endorsed the idea and urged that ways of implementing it be found.

It had been hoped that we would be able to secure some foundation help for this purpose. However, finding no financial help available we still felt that it was imperative that the Christian church, the United Church in particular, should be doing something in this field. Further discussions with leaders of other denominations and with others interested in the problem led the Council to conclude that since all other forms of desegregation—school, church, etc.—ultimately depend upon housing patterns, this matter should be given high priority. The Council appropriated from its funds a modest budget to get started a project in understanding and encouraging a change at this point.

The Council then proceeded to search for a city where such a project would find community support. After exploring a number of northern cities, Minneapolis,

Minnesota was chosen because it seemed to have many factors which would aid such a project: the public policy of the city and state, church people who had real interest, and many social and civic groups interested in fair housing.

The Council has adopted the following statement of purpose:

"The Interfaith Fair Housing Project is based on the conviction that the Judeo-Christian ethic requires that all people regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin shall have equal access to adequate housing in a wholesome community. Further, we believe that residential segregation is contrary to the Judeo-Christian ethic and the American heritage of freedom, and that every person has a right to make his home in our midst with a claim on our friendship and concern. The project, therefore, will explore, develop and use various methods for changing the climate of opinion among religious and other groups in Minneapolis, so as to create greater support for open occupancy in all types of housing, while working toward a wholly non-segregated housing market in Greater Minneapolis.

"A further purpose shall be to consider and support legislation that will effectively open the housing market to all people regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin. Believing that the three great faiths of the Greater Minneapolis community—Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish—have in the past cooperated effectively on many community projects, we, therefore, pledge our support to this three-year project for equal opportunity in the housing market in Greater Minneapolis.

"We believe that a primary responsibility for changing discriminatory practices in housing devolves upon and should be assumed by the churches, synagogues and other groups committed to the same objective."

At the outset it was hoped that this would be a project aimed at reaching Protestant church people—confronting them with the moral issues involved in fair housing. After discussing this idea with a steering committee composed of local people, headed by Mrs. Eugene Gould, it was decided that such a project should be aimed at involving the total religious community including Protestant, Catholic and Jew.

Several meetings of the steering committee led to the creation of a Board of Directors with Mrs. Malcolm McCannel as chairman, Mr. Allen R. Anderson as secretary, and Mrs. Louis Smerling as treasurer. Other committees were formed, and the personnel committee was instructed to seek a full time director for the project.

WORLD ORDER SEMINAR

Dr. Willard Johnson, President of the National Committee for World Development, Dr. John C. Bennett, well known theologian, and Dr. James Robinson, famed Negro minister, will be among the speakers at the annual World Order and United Nations Seminar to be held in New York City, October 20-22.

One full day will be spent at the United Nations where the General Assembly will be in session.

This is your last chance to join one hundred other church people in three days of intensive examination of the world situation.

Write at once (enclosing \$6.50 for registration and Seminar dinner) to Reverend Herman F. Reissig, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.

After interviewing several candidates, the personnel committee recommended Mr. James A. Tillman, Jr. to the Board and he was invited to direct the project.

Mr. Tillman is 32 years old with a Master of Arts degree in sociology and is now working on his Ph.D. in American Studies. He is married and is the father of two small children. He has written widely for many magazines and contributed to a number of research projects. He was a Ford Teaching Fellow at Syracuse University in 1951-52. He has been Carnegie Research Fellow in Sociology.

Mr. Tillman has recently worked for the U. S. State Department as human relations training advisor in Latin America and the Far East. He has also worked as Dean of Personnel and Professor of Social Science at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He assumed his duties as Director of the Project on September 8.

Information concerning this project may be secured from Rev. Chester L. Marcus, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 West 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio, or Rev. Galen R. Weaver, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.

The Reverend Herman F. Reissig, International Relations Secretary of the Council for Christian Social Action, New York, is a member of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches.

The Reverend Chester L. Marcus of Cleveland, Ohio is Secretary for Racial and Cultural Relations for the Council for Christian Social Action and for the Board of National Missions.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

OCTOBER, 1959

News and Program Service of the
Council for Christian Social Action
of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.